

REMARKS

The specification has been objected to due to informalities. The abstract and specification have been amended to correct the noted informalities.

Claims 1-17 have been objected to due to informalities. Although the claims have been canceled, the term "time/space" is used in the newly submitted claims. This term is clearly defined as illustrated, for example, in Figure 1 of the disclosure. Additionally, claims 4 and 5 are objected to for having a "comma" between "selective" and "paired." Although these claims have been canceled, the newly submitted claims use this same phraseology. The comma is necessary to separate two adjectives describing the term "connection," and is therefore appropriate.

Claims 3 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The rejection is moot in view of their cancellation. However, it is noted that support for the term "coupling" may be found, for example, on page 1, line 13 of the specification.

Claims 1-3, 9, 11-2 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Suda. The rejection is moot in view of the newly submitted claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122034000.

However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted

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